The University Club
One West 54th Street
New York, New York 10019

November 14, 1967

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Hyattstown, Maryland

Dear Harold:

I have just purchased a copy of your new book at the publishers in New York. It's great, congratulations again. I loved Jim's introduction.

You volunteered to do something for me in Washington in a recent letter. Well, I have a request for you. I may have uncovered a new bonanza, I'm not sure.

I have known for some time that Tom Atkins, White House Press Photographer riding in camera car 1, took some footage in Dealey Plaza. I see him taking his movies in several photos of the grassy knoll area.

I phoned him and he told me he took two short sequences of the Newmans on the ground after jumping out of the camera car and running up on the knoll. One sequence he says was using a wide angle lens and the other a closeup lens. The wide angle sequence he says should show much of the wall, the fence, and Elm Street in the background as he was east of the Newmans at the time.

He said he made a film for President Johnson which incorporated these two sequences along with many others not taken in Dealey Plaza. Some of the other sequences may also be of interest, especially those taken at Parkland.

Atkins says he turned the film over to the Kennedy Presidential Library after it was shown at the White House. He suggested I contact a Mr. Kahn at the Presidential Library section of the National Archives. He is in charge of all the material being placed in storage somewhere on the outskirts of Washington while the Kennedy Library is being constructed.

I phoned Kahn, described the Atkins film to him and requested permission to see it or to have you see it for me. He was not very cooperative. He at first said there was no such film and even if there were it would be unavailable because it would be crated and stored away and difficult to get at.

When I told him what Atkins had told me he said he would investigate it and call me back or write me. He didn't, so I phoned him again. He had called Atkins and then dug out the crates and opened them. He said he found the film but didn't feel it showed anything of interest. I asked what it showed and he said in the middle of the film there was one single frame showing two people and their children lying on the ground. He said it was not the grassy knoll and he thought it was on the other side of the street.

I told him it was the grassy knoll and that the frame would possibly be very important and that I would like to see it. He said, well of course the Kennedy Library material was in a different category than the Archives files. He said he would have to check to see whetheer he could get permission for me to see it.

Now Harold, I have a great desire to go to Washington and really raise a havoc with Kahn, or anyone else at the Archives who tries to suppress photographic evidence. Unfortunately, I am not going to be able to get down there for some time. So I would appreciate it if you would go there and really lean on Mr. Kahn or Bahmer or whoever else is involved.

I think it would be advisable to take Atkins along to make sure you are seeing all of what he took. Atkins' and Kahn's stories about what's on the film differ considerably. Atkins says he took two sequences. Kahn says there is one frame.

Beyond the significance of the Atkins film however, is the possibility that Kahn is in possession of one hell of a lot of other material of importance, both photographic and otherwise. He told me he has a card catalog of everything being stored for the Kennedy Library. Lord only knows what's in all of those boxes and crates out in the suburbs.

We know that Stoughton, Kennedy's personal photographer was in camera car two. Maybe he took some photos which would be in Kahn's boxes. See what you can do about getting an inventory of all photographic material he has.

Kahn's phone number is (202) 963-6331. Atkins' phone number at the White House is (202) 638-0407.

Luck,

Dick mw

Richard E. Sprague

RES/mw
enclosure: my monograph Edition #4